Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating a custom spreadsheet, said method comprising transforming a portion of a database into the custom spreadsheet, wherein the transforming includes determining selected from the group consisting of determining whether to omit in the custom spreadsheet a column that is in the portion, determining whether to add to the custom spreadsheet a column that is not in the portion, and combinations thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the database comprises a view of the database.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the transforming includes performing N functions F_1, F_2, ..., F_N based on N rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N, respectively, wherein N is at least 1.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the transforming includes executing a control program, wherein executing the control program includes invoking N software modules M_1, M_2, ..., M_N which respectively retrieve the rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the N modules retrieve the N rule sets based on a report identifier that denotes a spreadsheet type.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising returning the rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N to the control program by the N modules, wherein executing the control program includes performing by the control program the functions F_1, F_2, ..., F_N based on the rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N, respectively.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein invoking the N modules M_1, M_2, ..., M_N includes performing by the modules M_1, M_2, ..., M_N the functions F_1, F_2, ..., F_N based on rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N, respectively.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein the database is a LOTUS DOMINO database, wherein each module is a LOTUS script, and wherein the custom spreadsheet is a LOTUS 1-2-3 spreadsheet.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the N rule sets include at least one of range formatting rules, column title rules, report header rules, report footer rules, totaling rules, translation rules, translation rules, calculation rules, sheet rules, report naming rules, and report placement rules.

10. The method of claim 3, wherein the custom spreadsheet comprises a plurality of sheets and wherein a first rule set of the N rule sets includes an integrative rule set that cuts across at least two sheets of the plurality of sheets.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether to add to the custom spreadsheet a column that is not in the portion includes determining whether to add to the custom spreadsheet a

column that is a calculated function of one or more columns that is in the portion.

12. A computer system for generating a custom spreadsheet, said computer system comprising software adapted to transform a portion of a database into the custom spreadsheet, wherein to transform includes to determine selected from the group consisting of to determine whether to omit in the custom spreadsheet a column that is in the portion, to determine whether to add to the custom spreadsheet a column that is not in the portion, and combinations thereof.

13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the portion of the database comprises a view of the database.

14. The computer system of claim 12, wherein to transform includes to perform N functions F_1, F_2, ..., F_N based on N rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N, respectively, wherein N is at least 1.

15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein to transform includes to execute a control program, wherein to execute the control program includes to invoke N software modules M_1, M_2, ..., M_N which respectively retrieve the rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N.

16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the N modules retrieve the N rule sets based on a report identifier that denotes a spreadsheet type.

17. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the software is further adapted to return the rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N to the control program by the N modules, wherein to execute the control

program includes to perform by the control program the functions F_1, F_2, ..., F_N based on the rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N, respectively.

18. The computer system of claim 15, wherein to invoking the N modules M_1, M_2, ..., M_N includes to performing by the modules M_1, M_2, ..., M_N the functions F_1, F_2, ..., F_N based on rule sets R_1, R_2, ..., R_N, respectively.

19. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the database is a LOTUS DOMINO database, wherein each script is a LOTUS script, and wherein the custom spreadsheet is a LOTUS 1-2-3 spreadsheet.

20. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the N rule sets include at least one of range formatting rules, column title rules, report header rules, report footer rules, totaling rules, translation rules, translation rules, calculation rules, sheet rules, report naming rules, and report placement rules.

21. The computer system of claim 14, wherein the custom spreadsheet comprises a plurality of sheets and wherein a first rule of the N rules includes an integrative rule that cuts across at least two sheets of the plurality of sheets.

22. The computer system of claim 12, wherein to determine whether to add to the custom spreadsheet a column that is not in the portion includes to determine whether to add to the custom spreadsheet a column that is a calculated function of one or more columns that is in the portion.

23. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code including software adapted to transform a portion of a database into a custom spreadsheet, wherein to transform includes to determine selected from the group consisting of to determine whether to omit in the custom spreadsheet a column that is in the portion, to determine whether to add to the custom spreadsheet a column that is not in the portion, and combinations thereof.